

# Richard S. Thomas

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Richard S. Thomas, AIA, MBA, is the Senior Director, Capital Planning Weill Cornell Medical College

Richard has had a 39 year career in strategic, program and facility planning background specializing in health care facilities. Trained first as an architect, Richard was a partner at the national firm Perkins & Will before transitioning into a planning and program management executive at major medical centers, particularly Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and New York Weill Cornell Medical Center. Thomas was responsible for the 1980's strategic plan leading to the Milstein Hospital Building and Allen Pavilions at Columbia, the 1990's redevelopment of The Hospital for Special Surgery over the FDR Drive, and two of three strategic plans at Weill Cornell Medical College: one clinical and a current research program.

Richard is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Public Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, where since 1986, he presents health care planning and facility issues to MPH, MD, DDS, and joint program candidates. Richard is active in the American Institute of Architects health care committees, the New York State Department of Health Construction Standards Advisory Committee, and is an early and active participant in the Center for Health Design, where he chairs its Environmental Standards Council. A strong proponent of evidenced based planning and patient focused care and design, Richard has brought to each of his programs a new level of concern and response to patient needs. This effort has been particularly evident at Weill Cornell where the institution adopted its Weill Cornell: We Care program as a new vision for all Weill Cornell physician practices especially those housed in the newly constructed Weill Greenberg Center.

Thomas resides with his wife, Marianne, a School Psychologist, founder, and President of Road to Achievement, LLC, in New Canaan, Connecticut where he is active in the preservation movement. Thomas led the restoration of the Carousel and Hotel historic buildings at Roton Point Club, lives in a mid-century modern house by "Harvard 5" architect John Johansen and is a board member of the New Canaan Preservation Alliance. Richard and Marianne have one grown son who is a Ph.D. research scientist at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. The Thomases have been members of St. Mark's since 1973; Richard has served as a head usher for many years, has been a member of the Properties Committee and is currently chair of the Green Faith Action Committee.